

REMARKS

Introductory Comments:

In the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, the Office objected that applicant's Amendment (submitted on 4 April 2001) was deemed non-compliant on the grounds that the subject Amendment did not include a clean version of the amended claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(i). Applicant was given a one-month time period in which to submit an amendment in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121. Applicant hereby requests that the application be reconsidered in light of the present amendment and accompanying remarks.

Overview of the Amendments:

Applicant, by way of this amendment, has tendered clean versions of amended claims 1, 7 and 25 (as amended per applicant's Amendment submitted 4 April 2001) in the form that they are now pending in the instant case.

As noted in the 4 April 2001 Amendment, support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. Support for the amendment to claim 7 can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed and particularly at page 12, lines 20-25 of the detailed description, and support for the amendment to claim 25 can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed.

Accordingly, applicant submits that no new matter has been added by way of the above-described clean copies of amended claims 1, 7 and 25, and the entry thereof is respectfully requested.

The Objection under 37 C.F.R. §1.121:

Applicant's Amendment submitted on 4 April 2001 was objected to as non-compliant on the grounds that the subject Amendment did not include a clean version of the amended claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(i). Correction has been required.

In response, applicant has submitted herewith clean copies of amended claims 1, 7 and 25 containing the amendments entered by way of the marked-up version of the said claims submitted with the 4 April 2001 Amendment in the instant case.

Accordingly, applicant submits that the 4 April 2001 Amendment is now in full compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.121. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is thus earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION


Applicant respectfully submits that the instant supplemental amendment brings the application into full compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121, and further that the pending claims define an invention which complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and which is novel and nonobvious over the art. Accordingly, allowance is believed to be in order and an early notification to that effect would be appreciated. The examiner

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is requested to contact the undersigned at (510) 742-9700, ext. 209, should there be any remaining issues that can be dealt with over telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 24 April 2001

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